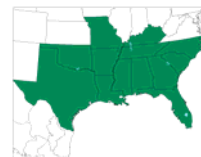


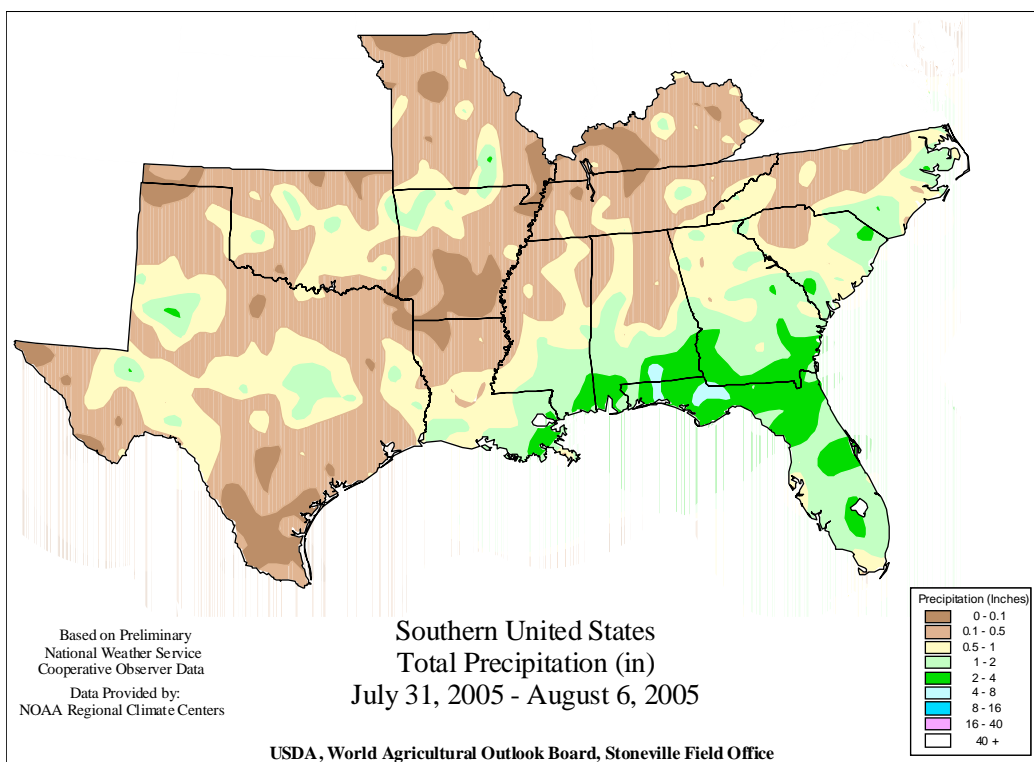


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

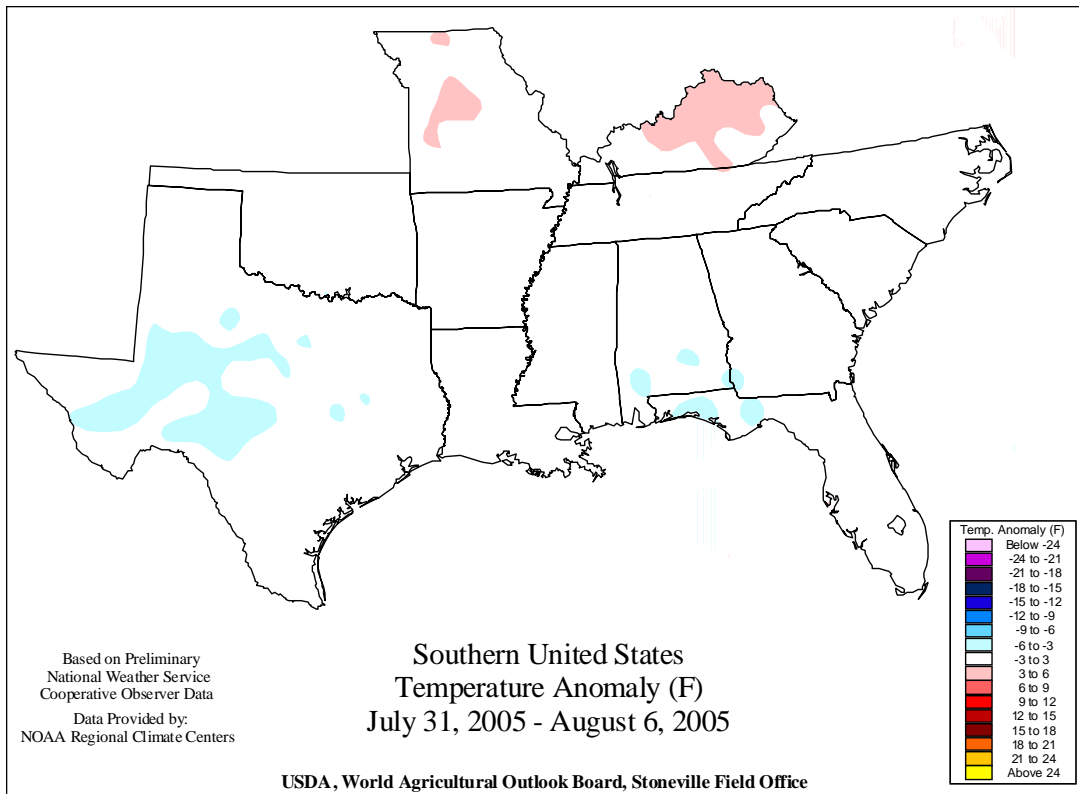
July 31 to August 6, 2005



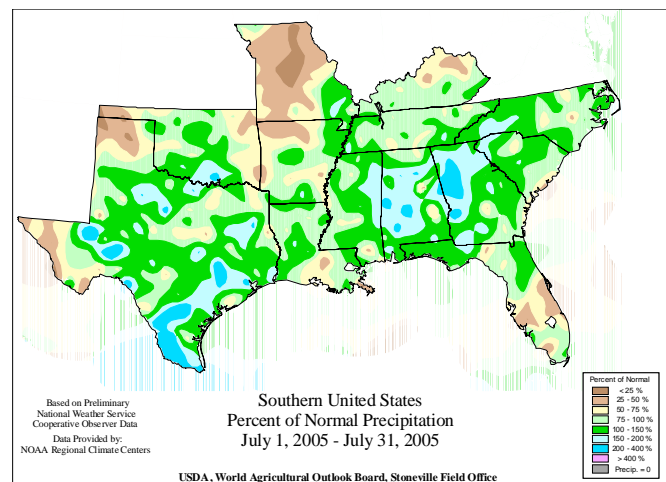
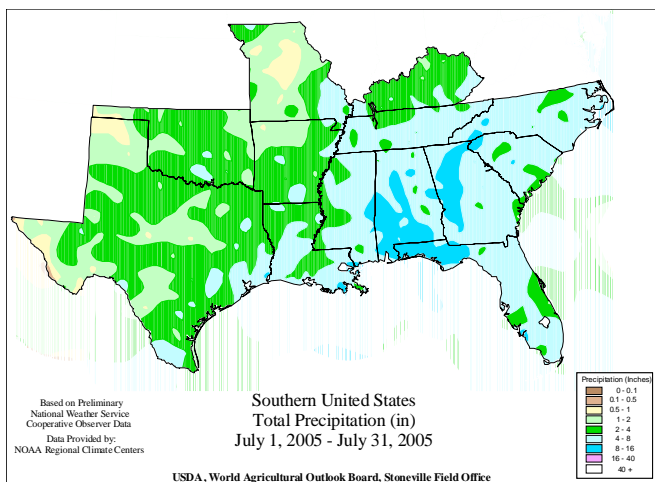
Weather Highlights

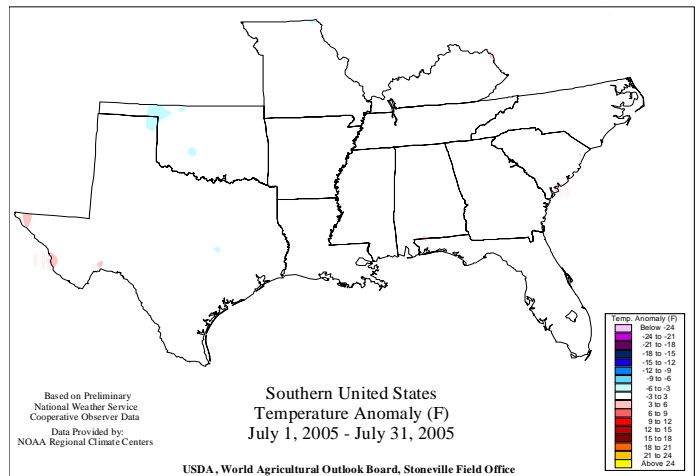
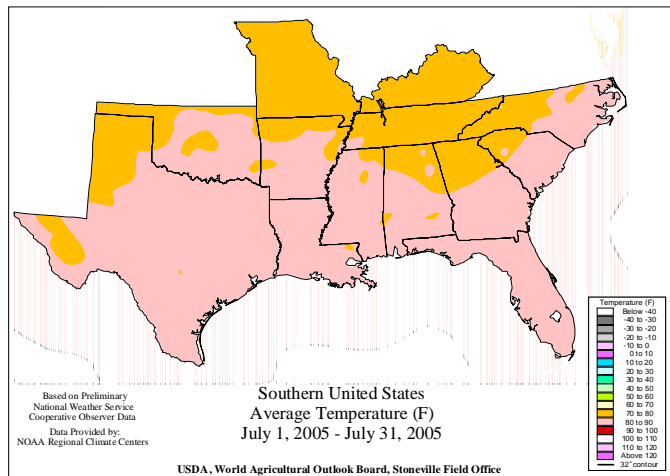
A persistent low pressure along the Gulf coast produced widespread rainfall, especially to Gulf-coastal cities from New Orleans and East. Florida had statewide coverage, and received the most rain of all the southern states. The Florida panhandle picked up locally heavy amounts of 4 to 8 inches, while rainfall across the remainder of the state varied from .50 to 4 inches of rain. Other areas in the south, especially near the Gulf and East Coasts, received similar precipitation amounts of .50 to 2 inches and up to 4 inches of rain. Areas west of the Mississippi River were much drier in comparison, but Texas managed to receive scattered showers (.50 to 2 inches) in some drought-stricken areas.

As seen in previous weeks, weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees F below normal in states that observed more rainfall and cloud cover such as Texas and Florida, while weekly temperatures were 3 to 6 degrees F above normal in drier areas of Missouri and Kentucky.



The Mississippi Delta received scattered rainfall throughout the week, with most areas receiving less than .25 inches. Two locations received heavier amounts of rain; Tunica recorded 2.08 inches of rain, and Sidon recorded 1.01 inches. The hot, humid weather kept irrigation demands high, but dry episodes were beneficial for cutting soybeans and corn. There were no extreme highs in the 100's this week, but highs did reach 96 degrees F in some areas such as Lyon and Indianola. A typical, summertime weather pattern prevailed in the region through the week.





July Weather Summary:

Three tropical systems impacted the southern region which helped reduce past deficits of rainfall during the month. The remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy and Hurricane Dennis brought locally heavy rains to areas east of the Mississippi River, while Hurricane Emily affected south Texas. The biggest gains in rain totals occurred in Alabama, Georgia, and Texas ranging from 150 to 400 percent of normal. The highest rain totals were recorded in Alabama and Georgia, from 8 to 16 inches of rain. South, and portions of east, Texas received 4 to 8 inches of rain from Emily. Rainfall from Cindy and Dennis resulted in the wettest start to July on record in Atlanta, Georgia for the first 11 days of the month, breaking the previous record set in 1994. Adjacent states also benefited from the tropical systems such as in Stoneville, Mississippi, which recorded a July rain total of 4.19 inches, up significantly from a very dry June total of .73 inches. The driest weather occurred in the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma, and from north to northwest Arkansas through northeastern Missouri. These areas received an inch of rain or less, equal to 25 to 50 percent of normal or less.

Temperatures averaged from 70 to 80 degrees F mostly in the farthest northern states, but the majority of the southern region averaged 80 to 90 degrees F during the month. Only very isolated locations in Texas and Oklahoma had temperatures average 3 to 6 degrees F above or below normal while the rest of the southern U.S. averaged near normal.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
		August 7, 2005	July 31, 2005	August 7, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Squaring	98	94	98	98
	Setting Bolls	78	69	83	84
	Bolls Opening	7	NA	8	8
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	61	61	71	---
Corn	Silking	97	92	92	93
	Dough	44	27	40	38
	Dented	10	4	13	11
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	52	53	76	---
Rice	Headed	67	45	72	69
	Harvested	3	NA	6	8
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	62	62	69	---
Soybeans	Blooming	95	91	91	90
	Setting Pods	76	55	66	63
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	51	54	73	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were setting on 78 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 83 percent last year and 84 percent for the 5-year average. Most southern states were behind their 5-year average boll setting pace. Alabama and South Carolina were significantly behind their 5-year average boll setting pace by 21 points and 13 points, respectively. Twenty-six percent of Oklahoma's crop began setting bolls this week. Louisiana, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Texas reported having bolls open. In Texas, producers harvested 4 percent of their cotton acreage. Nationally, crop conditions remained the same as last week, with 61 percent of the crop rated good to excellent.

Corn:

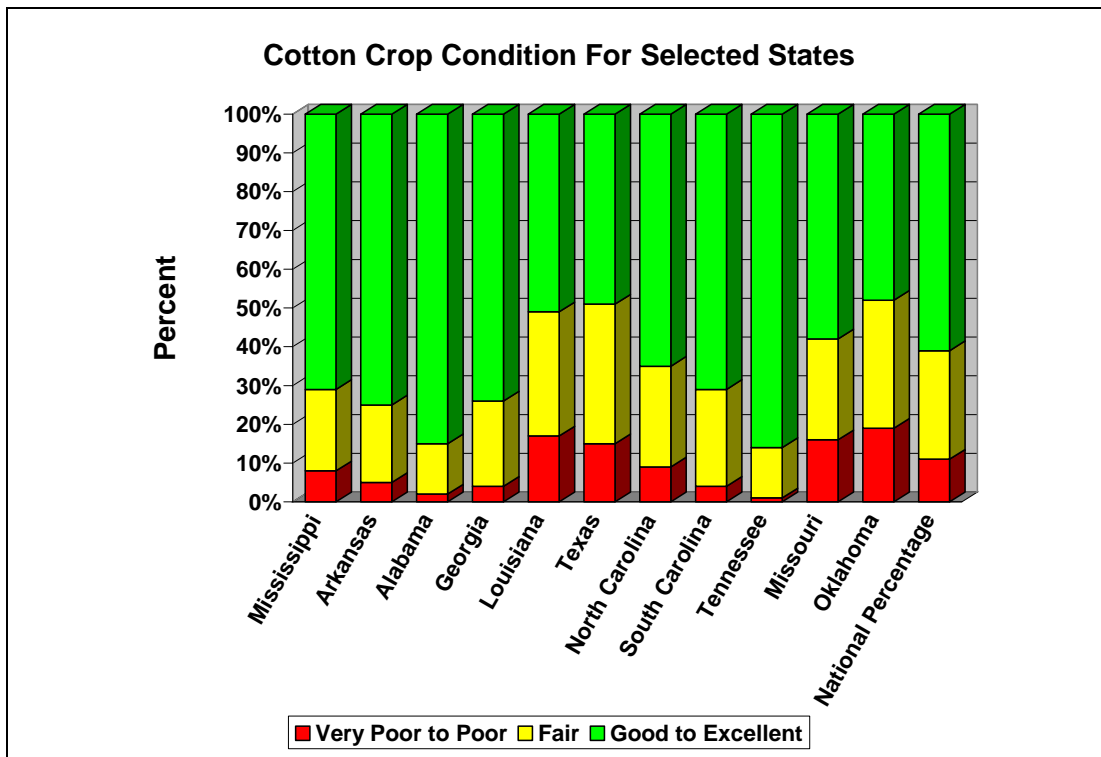
Forty-four percent of the nation's crop was in the dough stage, 4 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop condition in the good to excellent category declined one point from last week to 52 percent. The southern states' corn crop was most advanced in Texas, where producers harvested 33 percent of their acreage, 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Texas, corn condition declined 4 points to 38 percent rated good to excellent, leading only Missouri, where 30 percent of the crop was rated good to excellent. The corn crop in Georgia and South Carolina was rated 80 and 87 percent good to excellent, respectively.

Rice:

Nationally, 3 percent of the acreage was harvested, 3 points behind last year's pace and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-two percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, unchanged from last week. Mississippi continued to lead all southern states with 92 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, a 6 point improvement from last week. The harvest continued in Texas and Louisiana, but the pace lagged the 5-year average in both states. Furthermore, crop ratings in the good to excellent category were reduced to 60 percent in Texas and 51 percent in Louisiana.

Soybeans:

Pods were set on 76 percent of the acreage, 10 points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop conditions declined 3 points from last week, to 51 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. Southern states' soybean crops progressed to turning color and dropping leaves in South Carolina, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Crop condition in the good to excellent category was rated the lowest in Missouri (25 percent), Texas (28 percent), and Arkansas (36 percent).



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 61 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, no change from last week. Eighty-six percent of Tennessee's acreage was rated good to excellent, a decline of 4 points from last week. Alabama, with 85 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, followed Tennessee in having the best crop conditions of all the southern states. Oklahoma reduced their good to excellent ratings by 3 points from last week to 48 percent rated good to excellent. The Texas crop improved 2 points to 49 percent rated good to excellent.

July Summary: Soil moisture improved in Oklahoma and parts of Texas, while Missouri's drought expanded and worsened. Moisture stress was visibly evident in many southern crops primarily west of the Mississippi River, including the Delta. Harvest of corn, rice, sorghum, and soybeans began in Texas and Louisiana. Crop condition ratings generally improved in the southern states, except in a few states where crop ratings fell during the month. In Texas for example, crop ratings in the good to excellent category for corn and soybeans fell 19 and 8 percentage points, respectively.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)